

M I N U T E S

PRINCIPAL STAFF MEETING Monday, July 31, 2006

Greg Kist, Facilitator

Present:	Bill O'Donnell	Ron Bricker
	Dick Judy	Charlotte Wertz
	Casey Shrader	Herb Andrick
	Dave Kingsbury	Louis Aspey
	Carol Lagodich	Diana Doerr
	Greg Stone	
	Greg Kist	
	Pat Bowen	

The meeting was called to order by Greg Kist at 7:55 a.m.

BILL O'DONNELL

2nd. National Efficiency Meeting held July 17-21 in St. Louis, MO. Items reported as follows:

Bill stated that the meeting was better than last year and he came back with information on GIS information to be put in the PRS system. With Steve Carpenter approval, Wendy Noll will be entering this information in this week. This will assist us with pulling better progress reports from PRS.

Herb Andrick reported on using GPS for surveying. Looks like other states are using this with up to 90% savings in the cost of producing surveys.

Bill reviewed the use of rapid watershed assistance which was discussed during the conference. This could be used to look at CSP watersheds, with hopes of having more people ready for Tier 3.

Herb Andrick

GPS Training is scheduled for August 29, 30 & 31, 2006 in Morgantown Area and September 26, 27 & 28, 2006 in Romney Area.

- Training will be open to those who want a refresher course but space will be limited. If areas send employees for a refresher training the travel cost will be covered by that area.**
- State Office employees needing training in GPS will be scheduled for Morgantown session.**
- Limit class size to 15 students.**
- WV Bulletin will be coming out with the locations, agenda and space availability.**

Farm Bill Programs update

- Letter went out on Wednesday, July 19, 2006, to 2005 CSP Participants regarding modifications to their contracts.
- Establish end of ranking period at November 1, 2006 for all cost share programs. Cost estimates and application ranking will not need to be completed until early spring. This is just a heads up to the field offices will discuss this more in the area training.
- Need to move employees within the different fund codes. If employees continue to charge time to the funds they have been assigned then some accounts will be overdrawn and other accounts will have significant amounts remaining. ASTC-FOs review the information that he sent by email and get back with him so he can consolidate the changes for FNM.

Need to schedule training in each area to review Farm Bill Program Changes:

- Need to schedule a day in each area to provide training to field office staff on new Farm Bill Programs:
 - Program Ranking Tool in effect October 1st.
 - Costlist and payment schedule
 - Changes to Protracts
 - Contract modification policy changes
- Herb asked the ASTC-FO to contact him with some dates for their area and locations as soon as possible.

Truman Wolfe

- CREP Meeting is scheduled Wednesday, August 2, 2006, starting at 12:00 at the Waterfront Hotel in Morgantown.
- Lost River Site #16 meeting Tuesday, August 1, 2006 at the East Hardy High School from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Louis reported
- Jeff Koon is working on the Security Training needs to meet NRCS requirements. Jeff will be working with the PA's at the CREP Meeting on Wednesday.
- Dunloup Creek Public Meeting.
- Congressional Tour is scheduled for August 7-8-9, 2006 with every congressional office represented. Carolyn reviewed the agenda for the tour.
- State Fair is scheduled for August 11-22, 2006.
- Farm tour is August 22-23, will leave from Morgantown head over to Martinsburg and back to Morgantown the first day and from Morgantown head South to complete the tour of five (5) farms.

PAT BOWEN

Two (2) FRPP closings scheduled this week.

GREG STONE

We are looking at the State Fair for a positive way to have a strong face to face contact with landowners for the South Area.

PMC meeting scheduled for tomorrow 8/1/06 to look at grazing demo project.

GREG KIST

The bids are in for the George Thorne WRP site in Upshur County.

NFHR recreation and sewer construction starting soon.

West Area has two (2) Soil Conservationists in their last week of boot camp.

Dick Judy

Reported on the following construction jobs:

- **Elk Water Fork– construction is under way.**
- **North Fork Hughes River (NFHR)– 2 contracts sewer and camping – bids came in a little higher than the engineers estimates. Currently under review.**
- **Deckers Creek AMD – solicitation package is in Fed Biz Ops with the bids due August 22, 2006.**
- **Little Whitestick Channel Phase III-Solicitation for bids underway. Site showing on August 15, 2006 with bid opening scheduled for August 30, 2006.**

Dave Kingsbury

MO-13 restructuring plan for WV is completed and was mailed on Friday 7/28/06.

Casey Shrader

Area Plan Review training is scheduled for August 3, 2006, in the Watershed Conference Room.

Make up session for those who were grandfathered in for conservation planning is scheduled for August 11, 2006 at the Ag. Science Center. Bill O'Donnell reported that Ron Hilliard stated that all principal staff are to attend this training along with any recommended staff from your section. Casey asked that everyone contact him on those planning to attend.

Ron Bricker

Ron presented a short budget update for the group. The budget has improved and we are out of the RED. A budget meeting is set for tomorrow with Ron Hilliard and others, Ron Bricker will send out a notice to everyone involved.

Ron also reported the FB dollars need to be earned; some FB TA dollars are in the hole.

Carol Lagodich

News and Views will be out soon.

Charlotte Wertz

Incident Command System Training Bulletin went out on Friday, July 28, 2006. The training is in AgLearn and is to be completed by the due date stated in the Bulletin. All Supervisors will be held accountable to insure their employees have completed this training by the deadline.

Bill O'Donnell

Reviewed the Field Office goals, we are doing much better at this time compared to three (3) months ago.

- **Three (3) items are still in the red**
- **Two (2) in Yellow-CNMPs need a lot of work**
- **Bill asked the ASTC-FOs to please stay on top of these items and thanked them for working so hard to meet the goals.**

Reviewed a letter received from the National FAC in regards to service center consolidations.

All in-state training will be included in the Business Plan. We will be looking at the list of in-state training requests to determine the needs for FY-07.

Charlotte reported on the NEDC training and hopes to have some of these courses in state.

Bill also reported on the GLCI grant for \$200,000.00 and that we will be working on an agreement to commit these funds to the WVCA.

With no further business, Greg Kist closed the meeting at 9:10 a.m.